

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 28, 2007. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 23-32 have been allowed. By the present amendment, claims 1, 8, 13 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection in view of the amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, claims 1-7, 11, 13-17 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0187992 to Steinfeldt et al. (hereinafter Steinfeldt) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0156900 to Marquette et al. (hereinafter Marquette).

Steenfeldt is directed to a system and method for managing a plurality of services triggered by a same message or messages. The system applies a set of rules and priorities under different conditions to make sure that a subscriber's intentions are carried out properly. The embodiments described may employ the SIP protocol, but not to provide voice communication capabilities to various software programs. While voice over Internet protocol is mentioned as a potential service, there is no teaching or suggestion that such a service is made available in different software applications to enable voice communications as set forth in present claims 1, 13 and 22.

According to the Examiner, Steinfeldt fails to teach or suggest enabling and providing voice over Internet service within the software application. As a result and consistent with the Examiner's statement, Steinfeldt fails to disclose or suggest at least the steps of: providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and

passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Marquette fails to cure these deficiencies. The architecture and purpose of Marquette are completely different from the present invention and fail to cure the deficiencies of Steinfeldt. Marquette is directed to a system that, in effect, translates requests for services using a particular protocol to a particular application or service (see e.g., paragraphs [0092]-[0093]. A control module 310 is employed as a translator of protocols. The services contemplated by Marquette are found in paragraph [0121], for example. These services include telephony services such as speech to text and the like. It should also be noted that these services are provided using a standard publicly switched telephone network, that is, conventional telephone service and not Internet protocol (see e.g., [0092]).

In operation, a user calls a server over a PSTN in order to call a service and employ it, or as a request for a service provider to be found. There is nothing in Marquette that suggests providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application. Marquette does not teach or suggest at least these steps.

Instead, Marquette permits a caller to call in via telephone 302 or computer 402 to a control module that automatically adjusts or translates the protocol in order to use an application 312 or service 314 that may be available over a publicly switched network. Nowhere in Marquette is a software application configured to provide VoIP for a computer user to call another user (to make a telephone call from a software application at the user's device).

Nowhere in Marquette is a link passed as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Claim 1, e.g., recites, *inter alia*, a method for enabling voice over Internet for computer applications including ... providing SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications; providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Steenfeldt and/or Marquette, taken singly or in combination, do not provide SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications. By way of example, each of a plurality of software applications on the user's computer may be configured to have a call capability to provide VoIP service. The use of the SIP based VOIP, which is made available to individual software applications is not disclosed or suggested in Steenfeldt and/or in Marquette. Neither reference discloses or suggests at least: providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

Nowhere in the cited combination is a link or other feature provided to add a voice communications feature to a software application disclosed or suggested. For example, the combination does not provide a link in a software application that can be employed to

provide a voice communication capability to any software application of a user. The combination fails to disclose or suggest providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application. The cited combination does not expand the use of VoIP to other software applications. Instead, Steinfeldt and Marquette manage a plurality of communication services through a complex set of contractual relationships, rules and conditions or through the use of a control module adapted to translate protocols or find a service provider that can provide a needed service (see e.g., Abstract of Marquette).

The combination is silent as to providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application, and providing voice communication capability to different software applications as presently claimed. The combination is silent on passing a link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application.

The cited combination fails to disclose or suggest at least: providing SIP service through an application programming interface (API) to permit access to service functions by individual software applications; providing a SIP link within a software application to permit user invocation of SIP service functions to enable voice over Internet service within the software application; and passing the link as a parameter to permit external access to an invoked service function to provide voice communication capabilities for the software application. Therefore, Marquette fails to cure the deficiencies of Steinfeldt. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and claim 1 be allowed for at least the stated reasons.

Claims 13 and 22 include similar recitations and have been amended in a similar way as claim 1. Therefore, claims 13 and 22 are also believed to be in condition for allowance over the cited combination for at least the stated reasons. Dependent claims 2-12 and 14-21 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the stated reasons and due to their dependency from claims 1 and 13, respectively. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

By the Office Action, claims 8-10 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinfeldt and Marquette in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0036482 to Goroshevsky et al. (hereinafter Goroshevsky), and claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinfeldt and Marquette in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,137 to Lund (hereinafter Lund).

The Applicant disagrees with these rejections for at least the above stated reasons. Goroshevsky and/or Lund, taken alone or in any combination fail to cure the deficiencies of Steinfeldt and Marquette as stated. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

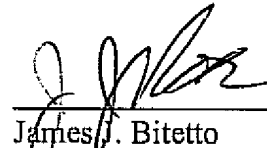
The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-31. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the case is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's IBM Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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